

Application No. 10/825,930 - - - - 2

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A delivery vehicle for a silver ion releasing compound for use in the treatment of menorrhagia and comprising a plurality of physiologically inert beads bearing a tissue necrosing amount of a water soluble silver ion releasing compound.

Claim 2 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are selected from the group consisting of polymeric beads, ceramic beads, and stainless steel beads.

Claim 3 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 2 wherein the polymeric beads are selected from the group consisting of polystyrene beads, polyethylene beads, polypropylene beads, nylon beads, polyurethane beads, ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer beads, and polyethyleneterephthalate beads.

Claim 4 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are foamed polypropylene beads.

Claim 5 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polypropylene beads are solid polypropylene beads.

Claim 6 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polystyrene beads are perforated polystyrene beads.

Claim 7 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 3 wherein the polyethylene beads are foamed polyethylene beads.

Claim 8 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is deposited on the surface of the beads.

Claim 9 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of the silver nitrate is contained within the beads.

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Claim 10 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are substantially spherical and have an average diameter in the range of about 1 to about 6 millimeters.

Claim 11 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are substantially spherical and have an average diameter in the range of about 2 to about 4 millimeters.

Claim 12 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble inorganic silver salt.

Claim 13 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver nitrate.

Claim 14 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver perchlorate.

Claim 15 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 12 wherein the water soluble inorganic silver salt is silver permanganate.

Claim 16 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is a water soluble organic silver salt.

Claim 17 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver acetate.

Claim 18 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 16 wherein the water soluble organic silver salt is silver lactate monohydrate.

Claim 19 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 75 percent by weight silver nitrate.

Claim 20 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present as a composition that comprises at least about 95 percent by weight silver nitrate.

Claim 21 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 20 wherein the silver nitrate is present as a composition that comprises up to about 5 percent by weight potassium nitrate.

Claim 22 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads contain about 20 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

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Claim 23 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads contain about 50 to about 150 milligrams of silver nitrate per bead.

Claim 24 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the silver ion releasing compound is silver nitrate and is present in a physiologically tolerable binding matrix.

Claim 25 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 24 wherein binding matrix is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic polymeric binder, a gelatin binder, a polysaccharide binder, and a combination thereof.

Claim 26 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a polysaccharide.

Claim 27 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 26 wherein the polysaccharide is a dextran.

Claim 28 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 25 wherein the binding matrix is a synthetic polymer.

Claim 29 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 28 wherein the synthetic polymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 30 (original): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the physiologically inert beads are porous.

Claims 31-36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (new): The delivery vehicle of claim 1 wherein the beads are polymeric beads.